

New Words and Their Contextual Meaning**Chapter 10 – Text 1**

skyrocket	v.	rise rapidly and suddenly
fertility rate		birth rate of a population
Niger	n.	a country of west-central Africa
demographer	n.	scientists who study population patterns
demographic	a.	of or related to study of population patterns
surge	n.	a sudden increase in amount or number
ice age		a cold period marked by episodes of extensive glaciation alternating with episodes of relative warmth
stabilize	v.	make stable or steadfast
rural	a.	of, relating to the country
urban	a.	of, relating to the city
doomsday	n.	Judgment day
take up		to accept a suggestion, offer, or idea
environmentalist	n.	someone who is concerned about protecting the environment
opponent	n.	one that opposes another or others
famine	n.	a drastic, wide-reaching food shortage

Chapter 10 – Text 2

stuck	a.	impossible or unable to move in a particular position
get stuck in		be unable to move in
gang	n.	a group of young people who spend time together, and who are often involved in crime or drugs and who often fight against other groups
crafts	n.	<i>(pl.)</i> sth. produced skillfully by hand
impersonal	a.	showing no emotion
siren	n.	an electronic device producing a similar sound as a signal or warning
wail	v.	make a long high sound
hellhole	n.	a very dirty, ugly, and unpleasant place
megacity	n.	a city with a population of more than 10 million
populous	a.	having a large population
run out of		exhaust the supply of
landfill	n.	the practice of burying waste under the ground, or the waste buried in this way
massive	a.	large or imposing, as in quantity, scale degree, intensity, etc.
clean-up	n.	the act of making a place completely clean and tidy
congestion	n.	overcrowding

Chapter 10 – Text 3

cardboard	n.	a material similar to thick, stiff paper, that is made of pressed paper pulp or pasted sheets of paper
ecosystem	n.	all the animals and plants in a particular area, and the way in which

		they are related to each other and to their environment
toxic	a.	relating to poison
pest	n.	a plant or animal harmful to human beings
plankton	n.	the very small forms of plant and animal life that live in water, esp. the sea, and are eaten by fish
blame ... on		think someone or sth. is responsible for sth. bad
in one's interest		for one's benefits
diminish	v.	make or become smaller or less
make up		combine together to form sth.
endanger	v.	expose to harm or danger
topsoil	n.	the upper part of the soil
pollutant	n.	a substance that makes air, water, soil, etc. dangerously dirty
bronchitis	n.	an illness which affects your bronchial tubes and makes you cough
carbon dioxide		the gas produced when animals breathe out, when carbon is burned in air, or when animal or vegetable substances decay
disruption	n.	a situation in which sth. is prevented from continuing in its usual way
low-lying	a.	lying close to water or ground level
ozone layer		the layer of gas that protects us from the sun
chlorofluorocarbons		a gas used in fridges and aerosol cans, believed to be responsible for damaging the ozone layer
protocol	n.	a written record of a formal or international agreement
emission	n.	the act of sending out light, heat, gas, etc.
reserve	n.	an area of land where wild animals and plants are protected

Chapter 10 – Text 4

composition	n.	the way sth. is formed from separate parts or people
disadvantaged group		deprived people considered as a group
signpost	n.	a sign or a guide
indicator	n.	a measure which gives you an idea of what sth. is like
sperm	n.	a male gamete
embryo	n.	an animal or human that has not yet been born and has just begun to develop
logistics	n.	the practical arrangements that are needed in order to make a plan that involves a lot of people and equipment successful
logistically	ad.	relating to the logistics of doing sth.
extra-terrestrial	a.	relating to things that exist outside the Earth
phoenix	n.	a bird in Egyptian mythology that lived in the desert for 500 years and then consumed itself by fire, later to rise renewed from its ashes
Palaeolithic	a.	relating to the time when humans first started to make tools out of stone
far-fetched	a.	not readily believable because of improbable elements therein
pull the plug		prevent a plan, business, etc. from being able to continue, esp. by deciding not to give it any more money